

# SCHOOL OF MEDICINE



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*“We are on the edge of a health care crisis with inland doctors stretched to the limit. A School of Medicine in the heart of Inland Southern California will go a long way toward meeting our state’s urgent need, and provide for greater diversity in the physician workforce.”*

— Phyllis A. Guze, M.D.

## Acting Vice Chancellor and Dean Appointed

Phyllis A. Guze, a nationally recognized leader in medical education, has been appointed Acting Vice Chancellor for Medical Sciences and Dean of the School of Medicine at UCR.

Dr. Guze had been serving as executive director of medical school planning at UCR, and holds an academic appointment as professor of clinical medicine in the UCLA School of Medicine.

She will not be a candidate for the permanent founding vice chancellor for medical sciences and medical school dean. A national recruitment for the position is currently underway.

“We are very pleased to have Dr. Guze continue to lead the development of our School of Medicine,” said Chancellor Timothy P. White. “The Regents’ establishment of the leadership title of Vice Chancellor for Medical Sciences and Dean of the School of Medicine was an important next step, recognizing the stature of the position in academic medicine.

“It also recognizes the extraordinary ability and experience that Dr. Guze brings to this role on an interim basis until the permanent incumbent arrives.”

## Hospital Establishes Scholarship Fund

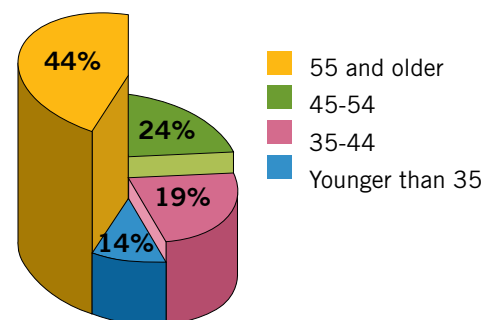
Desert Regional Medical Center, a 394-bed acute care hospital with the Coachella Valley’s only designated trauma unit, has established a \$25,000 scholarship fund benefiting future medical students at UCR.

The Desert Regional Medical Center Endowed Student Fund will aid students with financial needs who enroll in the UCR School of Medicine beginning in 2012, according to Karolee Sowle, chief executive officer of the medical center. “Desert Regional Medical Center’s mission is to meet the medical needs and improve the health of people in the community,” said Sowle. “This requires a steady flow of new doctors to our community. It is our hope that many of the doctors trained at the new medical school will decide to practice here in the Coachella Valley.”

UCR Chancellor Timothy P. White said the medical center’s commitment is particularly gratifying due to the increasing debt that medical students nationally are incurring. “Karolee Sowle and the staff of Desert Regional are to be commended for recognizing this and for assisting deserving young people to achieve their goals,” he said.

## The Aging Physician Workforce

As a region, the Inland Empire has one of California’s most severe physician shortages, due to rapid population growth and the high proportion of current physicians nearing retirement age.



### Age Distribution of Physicians in Inland Southern California

From RAND Corporation report *Forecasting The Supply and Demand for Physicians in the Inland Southern California Area.*

## Helping Strengthen the Economy

*In addition to training new doctors, the UCR School of Medicine will create a major new economic stimulus in the Inland Southern California region.*

UC Riverside's economic impact in California in 2006-07 was more than \$1 billion, with more than 70 percent of that impact in Riverside and San Bernardino counties. The School of Medicine will be a catalyst for:

- Influx of additional federal research funds to fuel an expanded basic, translational and clinical research enterprise.
- Construction of facilities estimated at \$50 million between 2009 and 2011 and at more than \$500 million between 2011 and 2015.
- Attraction of additional visitors to the region for medical school-organized meetings, conferences and scientific symposia – visitors who will need lodging, restaurant meals, local transportation and entertainment.
- Creation of opportunities for new business development in the biosciences and high-tech industries as medical school research is translated into new medical devices and pharmaceuticals.
- Employment of additional faculty, biomedical researchers and staff to advance the region's knowledge-based economy.



## Support for Medical School Expands

The Riverside City Council in February reaffirmed its support for the School of Medicine, citing its importance for expanding the physician workforce, stimulating technology spin-offs and creating new business opportunities.

To date, more than 100 governmental agencies, medical and business entities, community groups and elected officials – along with more than 1,000 individuals – have expressed support for the initiative.



## Spotlight on Personalized Medicine

Leading scientists in regenerative medicine, inflammation and wound healing gathered in Riverside in January to share research that will underpin advances in personalized medicine, a promising approach that offers customized medical care based on individual patients' unique genetic variations.

Chancellor Timothy P. White opened the meeting, addressing the potential of personalized medicine to improve the understanding of disease processes and the treatment of individual patients. "Don't underestimate the importance of your work for humanity," White said.

The goal of the conference, which drew about 100 researchers, was for basic and clinical scientists to share scientific findings in inflammation, healing and regeneration that occur in many diseases.

"This workshop was intended as an early step to move this revolutionary approach in medicine to the front lines of biomedical research at UCR," said Manuela Martins-Green UCR professor of cell biology and co-organizer of the conference. "Our current faculty, together with the new faculty that will come with the School of Medicine, can be leaders in developing and advancing personalized medicine."

## Contacts

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